**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1.     (Currently Amended)  An electronic message management system comprising:

a digest specification device that allows a user to obtain a plurality of digests from an information stream comprising a plurality of candidate messages by allowing the user to specify a set of one or more sender-independent message-based rules for each digest, wherein each set of one or more sender-independent message-based rules specifies one or more characteristics of the candidate messages;

an information selection device that monitors the information stream and selects one or more of the plurality of candidate messages in the information stream that satisfy all of the rules in at least one of the sets of sender-independent message-based rules for at least one of the plurality of digests from a plurality of electronic messages based on one or more sender-independent message-based rules; and

an electronic message management device that determines, for each of the selected candidate messages, which of one or more the plurality of digests corresponds to the set of sender-independent message-based rules satisfied by the particular selected candidate message, is appropriate and integrates each of the selected candidate messages into the their respective corresponding digests determined to be appropriate or selects one or more of the candidate messages which meet one or more supplemental selection criteria.

2.     (Original)  The system of claim 1, further comprising a digest management device that delivers the digest to a predetermined destination upon satisfaction of at least one of the one or more sender-independent message-based rules.

3.     (Previously Presented)  The system of claim 1, further comprising an information sampling device that delivers the selected candidate messages to a predetermined destination based on one or more of the sender-independent message-based rules.

4.     (Original)  The system of claim 1, further comprising a rule management device that manages the one or more sender-independent message-based rules.

5.    (Original)  The system of claim 1, wherein the one or more sender-independent message-based rules include a Boolean comparison, a statistical-based selection criteria, a fuzzy logic based selection criteria, a keyword based selection criteria, a date, a subject, a recipient or a sender-based selection criteria.

6.    (Original)  The system of claim 1, wherein the electronic message is at least one of an e-mail, an electronic message from a mailing list and bulletin board posting.

7.    (Currently Amended)  A method for managing electronic messages comprising:

obtaining a plurality of digests from an information stream comprising a plurality of candidate messages by allowing a user to specify a set of one or more sender-independent message-based rules for each digest, wherein each set of one or more sender-independent message-based rules specifies one or more characteristics of the candidate messages;

monitoring the information stream;

selecting one or more of the plurality of candidate messages in the information stream that satisfy all of the rules in at least one of the sets of sender-independent message-based rules for at least one of the plurality of digests ~~from a plurality of electronic messages based on one or more sender-independent message-based rules~~; and

determining, for each of the selected candidate messages, which of ~~one or more~~ the plurality of digests corresponds to the set of sender-independent message-based rules satisfied by the particular selected candidate message, ~~is appropriate~~ and integrating each of the selected candidate messages into ~~the~~ their respective corresponding digests ~~determined to be appropriate or selecting one or more of the candidate messages which meet one or more supplemental selection criteria~~.

8.    (Original)  The method of claim 7, further comprising delivering the digest to a predetermined destination upon satisfaction of at least one of the one or more sender-independent message-based rules.

9.      (Original)  The method of claim 7, further comprising determining and updating the digest based on one or more of the sender-independent message-based rules.

10.      (Previously Presented)  The method of claim 7, further comprising delivering selected candidate messages to a predetermined destination based on one or more of the sender-independent message-based rules.

11.      (Original)  The method of claim 7, wherein the one or more sender-independent message-based rules include a Boolean comparison, a statistical-based selection criteria, a fuzzy logic based selection criteria, a keyword based selection criteria, a date, a subject, a recipient or a sender-based selection criteria.

12.      (Original)  The method of claim 7, wherein the electronic message is at least one of an e-mail, an electronic message from a mailing list and bulletin board posting.

13.      (Currently Amended)  An information storage media comprising information that manages electronic messages comprising:

information that obtains a plurality of digests from an information stream comprising a plurality of candidate messages by allowing a user to specify a set of one or more sender-independent message-based rules for each digest, wherein each set of one or more sender-independent message-based rules specifies one or more characteristics of the candidate messages;

information that monitors the information stream;

information that selects one or more of the plurality of candidate messages in the information stream that satisfy all of the rules in at least one of the sets of sender-independent message-based rules for at least one of the plurality of digests from a plurality of electronic messages based on one or more sender-independent message-based rules; and

information that determines, for each of the selected candidate messages, which of one or more the plurality of digests corresponds to the set of sender-independent message-based rules satisfied by the particular selected candidate message, is appropriate and integrates each of the selected candidate messages into the their respective corresponding digests determined to be appropriate or selects one or more of the candidate messages which meet one or more supplemental selection criteria.

14.     (Original) The information storage media of claim 13, further comprising information that deliver the digest to a predetermined destination upon satisfaction of at least one of the one or more sender-independent message-based rules.

15.     (Original) The information storage media of claim 13, further comprising information that determines and updates the digest based on one or more of the sender-independent message-based rules.

16.     (Previously Presented) The information storage media of claim 13, further comprising information that delivers the selected candidate messages to a predetermined destination based on one or more of the sender-independent message-based rules.

17.     (Original) The information storage media of claim 13, wherein the one or more sender-independent message-based rules include a Boolean comparison, a statistical-based selection criteria, a fuzzy logic based selection criteria, a keyword based selection criteria, a date, a subject, a recipient or a sender-based selection criteria.

18.     (Original) The information storage media of claim 13, wherein the electronic message is at least one of an e-mail, an electronic message from a mailing list and bulletin board posting.

19.     (Currently Amended) An electronic message management system comprising:
        a digest specification system that allows a user to obtain a plurality of digests from an information stream comprising a plurality of candidate messages by allowing the user to specify a set of one or more sender-independent message-based rules for each digest, wherein each set of one or more sender-independent message-based rules specifies one or more characteristics of the candidate messages;
        a data selection system that monitors the information stream and identifies one or more of the plurality of candidate messages in the information stream that satisfy all of the rules in at least one of the sets of sender-independent message-based rules for at least one of the plurality of digests from a plurality of electronic messages based on a sender-independent message-based rule; and

an electronic message management system functionally associated with the data selection system, the electronic message management system adapted to determine[s], for each of the identified candidate messages, which of ~~one or more~~ the plurality of digests corresponds to the set of sender-independent message-based rules satisfied by the particular selected candidate message, ~~is appropriate~~ and integrate each of the identified candidate messages into ~~the~~ their respective corresponding digests ~~determined to be appropriate~~.

20.    (Previously Presented)  The electronic message management system of claim 19 wherein the data selection system samples one or more of the identified candidate messages which meet one or more supplemental selection criteria.

21.    (New) The electronic message management system of claim 1, wherein the electronic message management device selects one or more of the candidate messages which meet one or more supplemental selection criteria.

22.    (New) The method for managing electronic messages of claim 7 further comprising selecting one or more of the candidate messages which meet one or more supplemental selection criteria.

23.    (New) The information storage media of claim 13 further comprising information that selects one or more of the candidate messages which meet one or more supplemental selection criteria.